

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 15-cr-20788

v

Honorable Thomas L. Ludington

TRACY LEIGH LAFOND,

Defendant.

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR NEW ATTORNEY AND MOTION TO WITHDRAW

On December 9, 2015 an indictment was issued charging Defendant Tracy Leigh Lafond with three counts: (1) Distribution of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2) and (b)(1); Receipt of child pornography in violation of child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(2) and (b)(1); and (3) Possession of child pornography involving a prepubescent minor or minors who had not attained 12 years of age in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2). *See* ECF No. 1.

Lafond made his initial appearance in front of Magistrate Judge Patricia T. Morris on December 21, 2015, at which time he was appointed Attorney Elias J. Escobedo. *See* ECF Nos. 6, 9. Pursuant to the Government's motion, Lafond was denied bond and ordered to be detained pending trial. *See* ECF No. 8. Lafond then filed a motion for bond on January 15, 2016, which was denied by this Court at a hearing held on February 8, 2016.

On April 7, 2016 Lafond sent a letter to this Court seeking the appointment of new counsel, claiming that he had lost faith in his current counsel's ability to defend him. *See* ECF No. 19. The Court construed Lafond's letter as a motion for a new attorney. Attorney Escobedo filed a response to Lafond's letter on April 21, 2016, detailing the efforts he had put forth in

preparing Lafond's case. *See* ECF No. 21. Noting that there had apparently been a breakdown of the attorney-client relationship, Attorney Escobedo sought permission to withdraw as Lafond's counsel. *Id.*

On April 27, 2016 a hearing was held on both requests. For the reasons stated on the record, both requests will be denied.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that Defendant Lafond's motion for the appointment of a new attorney, ECF No. 19, is **DENIED**.

It is further **ORDERED** that Attorney Escobedo's motion to withdraw as counsel for Defendant is **DENIED**.

s/Thomas L. Ludington
THOMAS L. LUDINGTON
United States District Judge

Dated: April 29, 2016

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing order was served upon each attorney or party of record herein by electronic means or first class U.S. mail on April 29, 2016.

s/Michael. A. Sian
MICHAEL A. SIAN, Case Manager